UGC to State Universities and Colleges, the severe constraint of resources and the need to provide adequate infrastructure in the newly established Central Universities in the north-east, the Government should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities. In view of this, the Central Government, at present, is not in favour of converting existing State Universities/institutions into Central Universities.

(c) Question does not arise.

Increase in private schools

†648. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of private schools are increasing throughout the country;

(b) whether these schools are free to charge fees in an arbitrary manner;

(c) whether Government are considering to fix any criterion to control the arbitrariness of these private schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The control over the functioning of the Private Schools is largely the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments where the school is located. There is a provision in the Bye-laws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), that the fees charged by the schools should be commensurate with the facilities provided. CBSE has issued instructions for compliance of this provision.

Mid-day Meal

649. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) which are the States that are still not giving cooked mid-day meal to the children;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States while at some places cooked meal are served and at others grain in lieu of cooked meals is distributed to the children;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) why Government have still not implemented the Supreme Court's directive so far and how long it will take for Government to implement the Supreme Court's directive in the whole country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the available information, 25 States/UTs are providing cooked meals under the Mid-day Meal Scheme. Of these, while 15 States/UTs namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhatishgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Pondicherry & Chandigarh are providing meals across the respective State/UT; the programme is being partially implemented in 10 others namely, Haryana, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Delhi. Rest of the States/UTs are providing foodgrains under the scheme.

(d) As per the scheme, the Central Government provides, foodgrains, free to cost and admissible transportation charges on the basis of which implementing agencies in States are required to arrange cooked meals for the children. In the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government has been constantly urging the States/UTs, currently not providing cooked meals, to implement a cooked meal programme.

Indian Language Promotion Council

650. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Language Promotion Council was set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to advise